



The Music Academy, Madras

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15th March 2026.

PRESS RELEASE

The Music Academy announces Sangita Kalanidhi, Nritya Kalanidhi and other awards for 2026.

The Executive Committee of the Music Academy Madras at its meeting on March 15, 2026 decided to confer its Annual Awards on the following artistes:

MUSIC

Sangita Kalanidhi

Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh -- Hailing from the musically rich Lalgudi family, Jayanthi Kumaresh made the veena her instrument of choice, beginning her tutelage under her mother Smt. Rajalakshmi. She later trained under her aunt Smt. Padmavathi Ananthagopalan and then the maestro S Balachander. She has also received guidance in music from her uncle and maestro Lalgudi G. Jayaraman, Sangita Kalanidhi T. Brinda and Sangita Kala Acharya-s Thanjavur Sankara Iyer and T.R. Subramaniam. A postgraduate in English and PhD, in Music, Jayanthi is one of the foremost exponents of the Saraswati Veena. She has contributed in a large measure to the present increase in popularity that the instrument enjoys. Apart from being a top-ranking performer in the Carnatic style, Jayanthi is known for her creative programmes to propagate Carnatic Music, especially among the young. She has also worked on collaborative performances with many musical greats, including the late Ustad Zakir Hussain.

Sangita Kala Acharya-2 awards

Smt. Sugandha Kalamegham -- Having begun her musical tutelage at the age of 13 from Sri Kadayam Krishnamurthy and Sri Gopala Iyer, Sugandha went on to learn from Sangita Kala Acharya Sandhyavandanam Srinivasa Rao and Sangita



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Kalanidhi TK Govinda Rao. She also learnt the veena from Sangita Kala Acharya Trivandrum R. Venkataraman. She has besides trained in Hindustani music at the Gandharv Maha Vidyalaya at New Delhi. She has been a concert artiste and guru. She has also served on the senate committee of the Annamalai University.

Trichur C Narendran - Born into a musical family, Sri Narendran began his training on the mridangam at the age of seven, learning from Kongorpilly Parameswaran Namboodiri. He then trained under Kunnankulam David Bhagavatar, E.P. Narayana Pisharody and Koduvaur Radhakrishnan before coming under the tutelage of Sangita Kalanidhi Palghat R Raghu. Apart from serving as a staff artiste with All India Radio, he became a front-ranking mridangam player, performing on stage with a wide range of popular artistes in the field. He has trained numerous disciples and also served as visiting professor of music at San Diego State University, California for two years.

TTK Award – 2 awards.

Injikkudi Subramaniam -- Born into a family of nagaswaram artistes, Injikkudi Subramaniam represents the 20th generation in the field. He trained under father, Shri Muthukumarasami Pillai, his uncle, Shri Ayyasami Pillai, and Guru Shri Thirumakalam V. Somaskantham Pillay. He began performing from age 11 and is known for his performances the world over.

TKV Ramanujacharyulu -- Sri Ramanujacharyulu began his tutelage on the violin from his father and then from his uncle Sri N. Ch. Krishnamacharyulu who was also a vaggeyakara and musicologist. Ramanujacharyulu soon became a much-sought after violinist and also a respected guru. He is known for his emphasis on the gayaki style of violin playing.



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Musicologist Award

Dr. B. Balasubrahmaniyan -- Presently the Adjunct Professor of Music and Co-Chair of Global South Asian Studies at the Wesleyan University, Dr B. Balasubrahmaniyan began his musical training under his father D. Balraj and then came under the tutelage of Agaram Sri Vijaya Raja Badar, Sangita Kala Acharya B. Krishnamurthy and Sangita Kalanidhi-s T. Brinda and T. Viswanathan. He did his graduation, post-graduation and also completed his doctorate from the University of Madras. He has been involved in teaching music since 1985 and has also done research into a wide range of topics related to the art.

DANCE

Nritya Kalanidhi

Narendra G -- A post-graduate from the Kalakshetra Foundation, Narendra is known for his extensive work in the field of traditional south Indian classical dance, namely Bharata Natyam. He has performed extensively in India and elsewhere and is acknowledged as one of the foremost present-day exponents in the art. Narendra is also the founder director of Avigna Dance Ensemble and has choreographed several dance ensembles and solo productions. These are marked by great innovations in topics, a high level of creativity in presentation and at the same time adherence to tradition.

Nritya Kala Acharya

A.Janardhanan trained at Kalakshetra under Rukmini Devi Arundale in Bharata Natyam and under his father T.K. Chandu Panikkar in Kathakali. He was the principal dancer in Kalakshetra dance productions and later became a faculty member. He has trained numerous dancers at Kalakshetra and post-retirement outside of it as well. He is today regarded as an authority on various aspects of classical dance.



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Dance Musician Award - Vocal – S. Rajeswari – A musician and music teacher, S. Rajeswari is known for her sensitive accompaniment by way of music for dance performances. She trained in music under Thanjai Sri Balasubramaniam, Sri Ramnad Krishnan and Sangita Kala Acharya T. Muktha. While she is known as a singer of choice for many dancers, it is for her collaborations with the fabled Kumari Kamala that is best known. Her work focuses on music for dance with rhythmic and melodic support for choreography.

Dance Musician Award-Instrument- T.K. Padmanabhan –

A distinguished violinist and vocalist for over five decades, Padmanabhan has not allowed visual impairment to stand in the way of his art and career. A post graduate diploma holder in violin and vocal Carnatic Music, he served the All India Radio where he had opportunities to accompany several musicians. In dance, he has provided violin accompaniment for the dance performances of several artistes and also collaborated with several gurus. He has also given solo performances.

The Sangita Kalanidhi awardee will preside over the academic sessions of the 100th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy to be held between December 15, 2026 and January 1, 2027 and will receive the award, together with those selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya, the TTK and the Musicologist awards at the Sadas on January 1, 2027.

The Nritya Kalanidhi, Nritya Kala Acharya, Dance Musician–Vocal, Dance Musician–Instrument, awardees will receive the awards at the Inauguration of The Music Academy's 20th Annual Dance Festival on January 3, 2027.

N. MURALI
PRESIDENT.